

George Michael House (Theune House)  
South side of River Rd. (LR45012),  
approximately 4 miles northeast  
of Shawnee on Delaware  
Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Middle  
Smithfield Township  
Monroe County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1160

HABS  
PA,  
45-SHAWD.V,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1160

GEORGE MICHAEL HOUSE  
(Theune House)Location:

Located on the south side of River Rd. (LR45012), approximately .5 miles northeast of Township line, approximately 4 miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.496420.4542590.

Present Owner:

United States Government.

Present Use:

Destroyed by fire circa 1972.

Significance:

Architecturally much altered, this structure is significant for its association with the Michael Family, and its location within a "complex" of surviving structures built by the Michaels, including the Michael Barn (recorded by HABS, No. PA-1259 and the Samuel Michael House (recorded by HABS, No. PA-1170).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: First half of the nineteenth century.
2. Original and subsequent owners: This is an incomplete chain of title. Reference is to the Records Rooms of the County Clerk and Registrar, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, unless otherwise noted.

1794 Deed: 23 April 1794 Recorded 12 Aug. 1794  
Book B., vol. 2, page 155  
Reference is to papers of Elizabeth D. Walters, Historian,  
Monroe County Historical Society, Isaac Humphreys and  
Elizabeth, ux.,  
to  
George Michael [John George Michael], of Forks Township,  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania  
Consideration: \$2,800 pounds (Pennsylvania).  
Acreage: 2 tracts (1) 284 (2) 178 acres, 115 perches.

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- 1805 Will: 3 November 1800 Probated 10 Sept. 1805  
Book 1, page 6 Wayne County  
George Michael [John George Michael], of Middle Smithfield Township, Wayne County, "Yeoman".  
Bequests: to widow Margaret, several tracts of land purchased from Isaac Humphrey, containing 9 or 10 hundred acres, "whereon is erected a good mansion house and other buildings"; to be divided among 3 sons later (John, George, Peter).
- 1833 Deed: 24 January 1833 Recorded 1 Feb., 1833  
Book 10, page 238 Pike County  
John Michael, Jr., and John Malven, Administrators of George Michael, late of Middle Smithfield "yeoman" to  
Samuel Malven, of Walpack Township, Warren County, New Jersey  
Consideration: \$5250.  
Acreage: 168 acres.  
Grant: premises of which George Michael died seized, intestate; Orphans Court, Milford, 23 Nov. 1831, petition of John Michael, to have lands partitioned among heirs; Writ of Partition issued, same day; Sheriff reported lands not divisible without prejudice to value of whole; appraised at \$5,500., at which price heirs refused to accept; exposed for sale on the premises, accept; exposed for sale on the premises, 2 Oct., the lands including "the Houses Outhouses Buildings Barns Stables...." Samuel Malven highest bidder.
- 1833 Deed Book: 25 January 1833 Recorded 6 Feb. 1833  
Book 10, page 242 Pike County  
Samuel Malven and Sarah, ux., of Walpack Township, Warren County, New Jersey, to  
John Malven, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.,  
Consideration: \$5250.  
Acreage: 168 "adjoining lands of George and John Michael, John Malvin & others...."  
Grant: same as conveyed to Samuel Malven, by Deed from Administrators of George Michael, 1833.
- 1833 Mortgage: 1 Feb. 1833  
Book 10, page 244 Pike County  
The President and Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania, to

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John Malven, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.  
Consideration: \$4000.  
Grant: regarding same land sold to Samuel Malven  
by administrators of George Michael.

1840 Deed: 30 March 1840 Recorded 7 July 1847  
Book 3, page 626  
John Malven, of Stroudsburg,  
to  
John Smith, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.  
Consideration: \$6,750.  
Grant: same premises conveyed by Samuel Malven  
to John Malven, 25 Jan., 1833.

1840 Deed: 30 March 1840 Recorded 7 July 1847  
Misc. Book A, page 479  
John Malven, of Stroud Township,  
to  
John Smith, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.  
Consideration: \$300.  
Acreage: 38 acres.  
Grant: part of real estate of George Michael,  
deceased; conveyed among other lands to Samuel  
Malven by Administrators of Estate; conveyed to  
John Malven, 25 Jan., 1833; Quit Claim.

1870 Deed: 26 March 1870 Recorded 19 May 1870  
Book 18, page 556  
Elizabeth Smith of Stroud Township, widow, and Franklin C.  
and Martha H. Bunnell, of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County,  
Pennsylvania,  
to  
Frank H. Smith, of Middle Smithfield Township, Pa.  
Consideration: \$17,000; & annual paymt. to E.S.  
Acreage: (1) 170 (2) 11 acres, 60 perches (3) 13  
acres, 109 perches (4) 1 acre 138 perches (5) 1  
acres, 8 perches.  
Grant: "one equal undivided half Part," and all  
rights of Elizabeth Smith; (1) "The first one  
being a farm or tract of land" in Middle  
Smithfield Township (2) woodland, same location  
(3) (4) (5) East Stroudsburg.

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- 1913 Deed: 28 August 1913 Recorded 29 Aug. 1913  
Book 73, page 413  
Louis B. Smith, and Edward F. Smith, Executors of will of  
Frank H. Smith of East Stroudsburg, deceased, and Mary  
Smith (widow), John H. and Nelly S. Albertson, Edward F.  
Smith, and May Smith, of East Stroudsburg, and Louis B. and  
Willie Smith of Lehman Township, Pike County,  
to  
George R. Elder, of Easton, Pennsylvania,  
Consideration: \$7500.  
Acreage: 181 acres, 95 perches.  
Grant: balance of real and personal property of  
Frank H. Smith, sold, and proceeds divided among  
heirs, as stipulated in Will of Frank H. Smith  
[26 Sept. 1907 Will, d. 13 Nov. 1909, Book 6,  
page 358]; greater portion of premises that which  
became vested in John Smith; small portion  
purchased by Frank H. Smith from Aaron Smith,  
Executor of George M. Michael, 1894, Book 45,  
page 162.
- 1941 Deed: 17 December 1941 Recorded 29 Dec. 1941  
Book 139, page 370  
Chester A. Meixell, Sheriff of Monroe County,  
to  
Easton National Bank  
Consideration: \$15,000.  
Acreage: 181 acres, 95 perches.  
Grant: same premises that Louis B. Smith et als.  
conveyed to George R. Elder, 1913; sold under  
writ of Fieri Facias, issued 26 Sept. 1941 by  
Court of Common Pleas, Monroe County, at suit of  
Easton National Bank; Ref. to Westbrook Survey,  
1813.
- 1942 Deed: 2 February 1942 Recorded 2 Feb. 1942  
Book 139, page 554  
Easton National Bank,  
to  
Karl Theune, of Brooklyn, New York  
Consideration: \$1.00  
Acreage: 181 acres, 95 perches; new description, 180  
7/10 acres.
- 1953 Deed: 29 July 1953 Recorded 7 Aug. 1953  
Book 195, page 19  
Karl and Elizabeth Theune, Glendale, Long Island  
to  
Herbert H. Theune of Middle Smithfield Township

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Consideration: \$1.00; subject to condition that Herbert H. Theune maintain, at own expense, Karl and Elizabeth, during their natural lives, upon the premises.

Acreage: 180 7/10 acres.

Grant: same premises deeded by Sheriff Meixell to Easton National Bank, 1941; subject to Mortgage issued by same Bank, 21 July 1948, Book 83 page 592, for \$10,000; (See also Deeds, Book 271 page 446, Book 249 page 129) Ref. to Edward C. Hess Survey, 9 Jan. 1942.

3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: George Michael is supposed to have built a frame dwelling at this site before he built the stone one that stands today. When George Michael acquired his farm and presumably built a substantial dwelling has not yet been determined. Thus far, documentary evidence appears to date the structure as pre-1833. Extensive alterations have obliterated most evidence of the building's earliest history.
4. Alterations and additions: The George Michael House has been extensively modernized. Most of the alterations were executed by Victor H. Dimmick during the ownership of George R. Elder, Sr. In 1929 Elder had the rear wing, and the bay window in the front room, constructed. He also placed a tin roof on the structure, and later replaced it with one of slate. Victor Dimmick recalls altering the cellar from five rooms to three.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

George Michael was the son of John George Michael, the first of the Michaels family in the Delaware valley. The dwelling house and outbuildings of the George Michael farm contribute to the over-all prominence of the Michael family holdings in the area.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

The Michael Family. Brochure, Privately printed by the Michael Family. Available in the Files of the National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Theune, Herbert. Interview, 4 August 1971, Pahaquarry Township, New Jersey.

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Walters, Elizabeth Dimmick (Mrs. Horace.) Interview, 2 August, 1971, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Mathews, Alfred. History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: R. T. Peck and Company, 1886. Courtesy of Elizabeth D. Walters, Curator, Monroe County Historical Society.

Prepared by Lynn Beebe Weaver  
Project Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
August, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The George Michael house is a random rubble stone two-and-one-half story house covered with stucco, painted white. The ridge of the gable roof runs parallel to the north (front) elevation. The distyle doric entrance porch on the front facade opens into a central hall plan.

There have been two additions, both frame, covered with clapboard, added to the southern elevation.

Outbuildings include a wagon shed, a garage and apartment, a sheep barn and a storage shed; all were constructed by Victor H. Dimmick. The large Michael Barn (Recorded as HABS No. PA-1259), built by the Michael family, lies north of the George Michael farm.

Prepared by John M. McRae  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
July 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of John M. McRae, (University of Florida), Project Supervisor, by Jack L. Finglass (Carnegie-Mellon University), Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois), architects, and Stephen J. Kirk (University of Kansas), student assistant architect in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian, 1971. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George A. Eisenman in 1968.